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# One God. Tawḥīd.

Everything in Islam begins with a single conviction: there is one God, the Creator of all things, who has no partner and nothing like Him.

The heart of Islam

## Four short verses that describe God

Belief in one God, called *tawḥīd*, is the foundation of everything else in Islam. The Prophet described this short chapter of the Qur'an, *Sūrat al-Ikhlāṣ* (Chapter 112), as worth a third of the whole Qur'an.

Verse 1

قُلْ هُوَ ٱللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

Say: He is God, the One.

Verse 2

ٱللَّهُ ٱلصَّمَدُ

God, the Self-Sufficient, on whom everything depends.

Verse 3

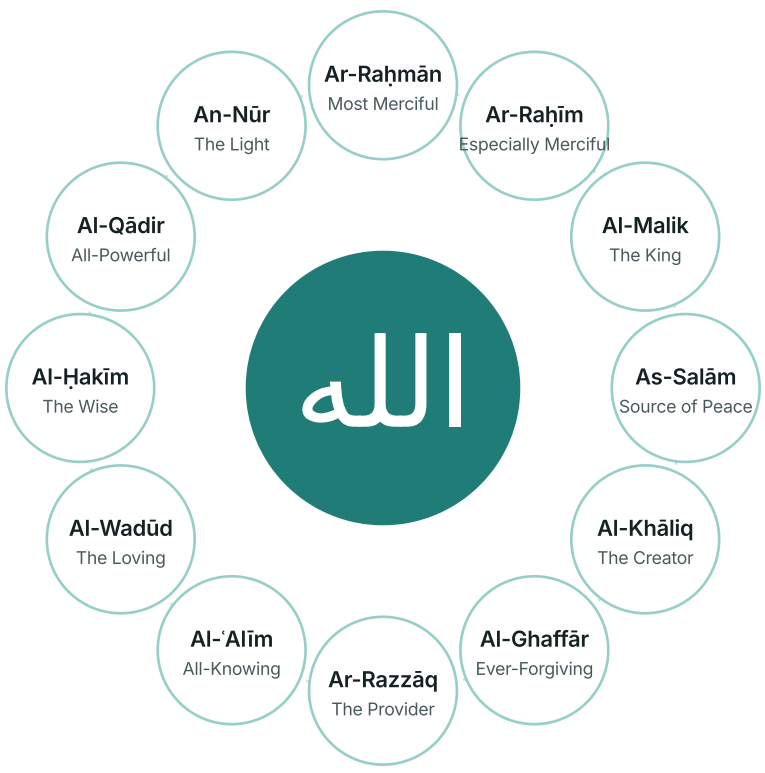
لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

He has no child, and He was not born.

Verse 4

وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُۥ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌۢ

And there is nothing like Him.




Getting to know Him

## The most beautiful names

We cannot see God, but we can come to know Him through His qualities. The Qur'an says, "To God belong the most beautiful names, so call on Him by them" (7:180).

Muslims traditionally speak of **99 names**. Each one opens a window onto God: the Merciful when we need forgiveness, the Provider when we worry about tomorrow, the Light when we feel lost.

Notice which names come first. Almost every chapter of the Qur'an opens "In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Especially Merciful."

Built into us

## Why belief in God feels natural

### Our original nature

The Qur'an teaches that every person is born with a *fiṭra*, an inner sense that points toward one Creator (30:30). Faith is a homecoming, not something foreign.

### An ancient promise

Before we were born, every soul was asked, "Am I not your Lord?" and every soul answered "Yes" (7:172). Life is a chance to remember that answer.

### Beyond imagination

God has no body, no beginning, no end and no equal. He is not limited by place or time, yet He is closer to us than anything else.

> "The beginning of religion is to know Him, and the perfection of knowing Him is to affirm that He is One."
>
> Imam ʿAlī (ʿa) · Nahj al-Balāgha, Sermon 1